



USAID
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Kazakhstan

USAID-supported Entrepreneurship Center will Strengthen Market-Oriented Business Practices in Kazakhstan

In May, USAID's Business and Economics Education Project (B&EE) helped open the Kazakhstan-American Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (KACEBI) at the Western-Kazakhstan Institute of Languages and Management "Evrazia". The center provides strategic consulting services and training for entrepreneurs in the areas of financial management, marketing, and human resource management to improve market-oriented business practices in the West Kazakhstan Oblast and in the region. In addition, KACEBI is partnering with western universities to bring undergraduate and graduate degree programs specializing in entrepreneurship to the region. To facilitate the start-up of the center, USAID's project provided a grant, trained center's management, and guided the creation of a strategic development plan. KACEBI's faculty has also benefited from a U.S. study tour and consultations on the design and delivery of effective training and education courses in entrepreneurship.



Kazakhstan's entrepreneurs acquire business knowledge and skills through USAID-supported entrepreneurship centers.
Photo: EDP

KACEBI is one of twelve B&EE's university-based pilot programs across the Central Asia. Such programs are focused on introducing key reforms and new student and business services. B&EE will continue to support the center through January 2007.

Turkmenistan

Voters Elect USAID Community Leaders to Local "Gengeshi" Councils

According to the latest reports, 17 community leaders who have participated in USAID programs won their elections and will become members of the new local governing bodies in Turkmenistan. The elections for local "Gengeshi" councils in rural areas of Turkmenistan, held on July 23, demonstrated increased civic participation and were a step forward in the community development process. Many of the candidates previously participated in USAID's trainings and small grants programs, implemented by Counterpart International. The programs helped participants gain skills in such areas as interpersonal communication, leadership, and constituent focus.



USAID provides community development grants and trainings to support Turkmen community leaders.
Photo: Counterpart International



Turkmenistan submits Global Fund applications

After over three years of efforts by USAID and other international donors, the Government of Turkmenistan submitted applications to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria. The submission represents a significant step forward by the Government to engage international donor organizations and is an opportunity to bring increased multilateral funding to combating major healthcare challenges facing Turkmenistan. The Turkmen proposal is aimed at expanding the TB-DOTS program nationwide, introducing HIV/AIDS prevention activities, and preventing malaria. If the grant is approved, the excellent treatment results in the USAID-supported TB-DOTS pilots will be expanded, and the population will receive information on ways to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission through the use of abstinence, faithfulness and use of condoms. The malaria grant will attempt to eliminate malaria mosquitoes in their hotbeds and improve current treatment of malaria.



To support improvements in Turkmen health care system, USAID provides training, equipment, and expert consultations.
Photo: USAID

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan also submitted applications. These countries all have operational grants from the global fund, and will continue to implement programs similar to those mentioned above.

USAID Helps Launch Turkmenistan's National STIs/HIV/AIDS prevention program

A seminar on the diagnostics of sexually transmitted infections (STI), delivered in July by USAID's CAPACITY and Participant Training projects, represented the first step in the implementation of the Turkmenistan's National STIs/HIV/AIDS Prevention Program. CAPACITY is also the first HIV/AIDS control and prevention project in Turkmenistan, and the seminar on STI diagnostics was CAPACITY's first activity in the country.

The one-week training took place in Ashgabat and was attended by twenty-eight Turkmen doctors and laboratory workers from all regions of the country. Improved diagnostics of STIs will lead to earlier detection and treatment of diseases. Since STIs is the most common factor related to HIV/AIDS transmission, the newly acquired skills will help address the latter issue as well. The training received substantial support from other donors: necessary equipment was provided by British Embassy, and follow-up trainings will be supported by WHO and UNFPA.



USAID is assisting the Turkmen Government to implement the National STIs/HIV/AIDS Prevention Program.
Photo: USAID